

14. (New) The method for producing a high-strength race according to claim 11, wherein the surface is hardened by quenching and tempering.

15. (New) The method for producing a high-strength race according to claim 11, wherein the obtained steel further comprises, as the balanced part excluding Fe, one or more elements selected from the group consisting of the following elements in percentage by weight: Bi: 0.05% or less, S: 0.10% or less, Ca: 0.01% or less, Zr: 0.10% or less, Sb: 0.10% or less and Pb: 0.01% or less.

REMARKS

Prior to this paper, claims 1-7 were pending in the present application. Claim 3 has been amended, and claims 8-15 have been added. No claims have been deleted. Therefore, claims 1-15 are pending in the present application.

As noted above, Applicants elect group I, claims 1 and 2, and respectfully traverse the restriction. It is respectfully submitted that upon allowance of claim 1, an additional prior art search will not be necessary for claims 3-15, since claims 3-15 depend from claim 1 (either directly or indirectly). Thus, a restriction is not warranted. (It is noted that new claims 8-15 are all drawn to a race and a method of making a race, thus these claims properly fit into group II.)

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance, and favorable reconsideration is requested.

If Applicants have not accounted for any fees required by this Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to our Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If Applicants have not accounted for a required extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, that extension is requested and the corresponding fee should be charged to our Deposit Account.

Examiner Yee is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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**MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE CLAIMS**

3. (Amended) A high-strength race comprising a steel according to claim 1, wherein the surface ~~is hardened to have~~ has a hardness of 52 HRC or more ~~by quenching and tempering.~~